

Henrico County Pandemic Flu Plan Summary:

I. Purpose

This attachment to the Henrico County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses how Henrico County plans to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the threat from pandemic influenza. This document will be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure that information contained within the document is consistent with current knowledge.

II. Situation and Assumptions

For planning purposes, the worst-case scenario is projected. If the situation does not fully develop, the response can be adjusted. The following assumptions are made:

- A. An influenza pandemic will present a massive test of the emergency preparedness system. Advance planning for Henrico County's emergency response could save lives and prevent substantial economic loss.
- B. Many geographic areas within Virginia and its neighboring jurisdictions may be affected simultaneously.
- C. Henrico County should be prepared to rely on our own resources to respond.
- D. The effect of influenza on individual communities will be relatively prolonged (weeks to months) in comparison to other types of disasters.
- E. There may be critical shortages of health care resources
- F. Widespread illness in the community could result in shortages of personnel in other sectors who provide critical services.
- G. Effective preventive and treatment measures (e.g., vaccines and antiviral medications) will be delayed and in short supply.

III. Henrico County Pandemic Flu plan components:

A. Surveillance

- 1. Henrico Health Department works, on a daily basis, with healthcare providers to detect diseases and outbreaks in the community
- 2. If a new flu strain entered the community, we would want to know about it so that we could act quickly

B. Infection/Outbreak Control

- 1. Once a new disease or outbreak is detected in the community, Henrico Health Officials will work quickly to try to contain the outbreak as early and efficiently as possible to reduce the spread of the disease.
- 2. All County agencies are involved in developing and exercising response plans for just this type of situation
- 3. Last November, for example, we practiced a mass vaccination exercise, with participation from Henrico Police, Sheriff, Fire, General Services, Public Schools, Public Relations & Media Service, and the Health Department.

C. Mitigation

- 1. Once the pandemic flu spreads beyond the point that it can be contained through outbreak control measures and becomes widespread, Henrico County will have to implement measures to reduce the overall impact on the community. This includes

- a. Ensuring continuity of local government
 - b. Protecting 1st Responders and Healthcare workers
 - c. Ensuring that utilities continue to operate
 - d. Reducing the impact on Businesses
 - e. Reducing the spread of illness in the community – this may include:
 - a. Closing schools
 - b. Canceling events and public gatherings
 - c. Issuing public advisories
- 2. For mitigation to be effective, much of the planning must be done before it is needed
 - a. Government agencies, businesses, organizations, individuals and families must have continuity of operations plans that extend beyond the 72 hours that is commonly used as a planning factor for other disasters
 - b. Any supplies and equipment that might be needed should be purchased now – we must get away from reliance on the “just-in-time” supply chain.

D. Public Information/Education

- 1. This is most crucial component of the plan
- 2. The government cannot meet all of the needs of all of its citizens during a disaster or an emergency
- 3. Individuals and families are the basic unit of preparedness. Households must have an “all hazards” plan that includes pandemic flu